

Message Text

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USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT - 1972

REFS: A. USNATO 3069; B. USNATO 3942; C. USNATO 4255;

D. STATE 180684; E. USNATO 4318

1. WE AGREE WITH MISSION COMMENTS THAT DISCUSSION OF SACEUR'S REPORT IS A USEFUL MEANS OF KEEPING ATTENTION FOCUSED ON FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND ON-COMING REVIEWS OF 1974-78 FORCE PLANS.

2. YOU SHOULD DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING DURING DISCUSSION OF PO/73/119.

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A. NOTE THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS REPORT EXPRESSES SACEUR'S

PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE IMPROVEMENTS AND SHORTCOMINGS OF REGIONAL FORCES ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED TO ACE DURING CY 1972.

B. EXPRESS GRATIFICATION THAT THERE WERE NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE COMMAND DURING THE YEAR OF THE REPORT.

C. EXPRESS YOUR BELIEF THAT AN INCREASED PACE OF IMPROVEMENT WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE NEXT REPORT, AND STATE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THIS BE SO.

D. NOTE WITH REGRET THE MANY DEFICIENCIES AND INADEQUACIES POINTED OUT IN THE REPORT AND EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN OVER THE ASSESSMENT BY SACEUR THAT ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED FORCES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE STANDARDS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE MISSIONS ASSIGNED.

E. EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN THAT AFTER ALL THE DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENTS ON AD-70 RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR SACEUR TO REITERATE TO POLITICAL AUTHORITIES THAT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE CAPABILITY TO ACE FORCES QTE TO DEFEND SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST MAJOR AGGRESSION END QUOTE.

F. STATE THAT MANY OF THE DEFICIENCIES NOTED BY SACEUR (I.E., COMMAND AND CONTROL, VULNERABILITY OF AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND, LACK OF SUFFICIENT WAR RESERVE STOCKS, MALDEPLOYMENTS, AND EXCESSIVE REDUNDANCY IN LOGISTICAL SYSTEMS), REINFORCE CONCLUSIONS OF AD-70 AND RE-EMPHASIZE THOSE AREAS WHEREIN CORRECTIVE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN BY THOSE NATIONS CONTRIBUTING FORCES TO THE ALLIANCE DEFENSE.

G. YOU SHOULD THEN REMIND THE DPC THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT THE JUNE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING RECOGNIZED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME QUALITATIVE DEFICIENCIES BROUGHT OUT IN SACEUR'S REPORT. SECDEF STATED, QTE DESPITE IMPORTANT ASYMMETRIES BETWEEN THE FORCES OF NATO AND THE PACT, IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS THOUGH NATO NEED LABOR UNDER ANY SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE ON M-DAY OR M PLUS 23, WITH APPROXIMATELY ITS EXISTING NON-NUCLEAR FORCE STRUCTURE, PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT A NUMBER OF ITS LESS VISIBLE WEAKNESSES ARE REMOVED. NOR IS IT CLEAR WHY THE DEFICIENCIES THAT DO EXIST CANNOT BE REMEDIED AT RELATIVELY MODEST INCREMENTAL COST. THE REAL ISSUES, IN OTHER WORDS, HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH WHETHER WE CAN DESIGN AN EFFECTIVE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE. WE ALREADY POSSESS THE INGREDIENTS OF SUCH A DEFENSE AND ARE PAYING A CONSIDERABLE PRICE FOR THEM.

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UNQTE.

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